

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155344
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:JCHAAHR:ZC
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O 192015Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 155344

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE DATED JUNE 17
TO GENERAL TORRIJOS FROM PRESIDENT CARTER:

2. BEGIN QUOTE DEAR GENERAL TORRIJOS:

I BELIEVE THAT OUR MEETING ACCOMPLISHED ALL OF THE PURPOSES WE BOTH HAD IN MIND WHEN YOUR INVITATION WAS EXTENDED. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE EXCHANGED THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION AND SIGNED THE PROTOCOL OF EXCHANGE FOR THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. BY INVITING THE PRESIDENTS OF MEXICO, COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA TO SHARE IN THIS HISTORIC OCCASION, YOU GAVE ALL OF US THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUES WE FACE. I KNOW WE BOTH VALUE THEIR ADVICE AND FRIENDSHIP.

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THE MONTHS BETWEEN OUR TREATIES SIGNING CEREMONIES LAST SEPTEMBER IN WASHINGTON AND THE CEREMONY IN PANAMA CITY

WERE LONG AND DIFFICULT. BUT DURING THOSE MONTHS THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA AND THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES DEMONSTRATED THEIR APPROVAL OF THE TREATIES. I KNOW THAT

OUR SHARED ENDEAVORS DURIN; THIS TIME MADE THE EXCHANGE CEREMONY YESTERDAY THAT MUCH MORE MEANINGFUL FOR US BOTH. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT TRULY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AND MORE PROMISING ERA IN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS, AND AMONG ALL THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONVEY TO THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA ROSALYNN'S AND MY APPRECIATION FOR THE HOSPITALITY THEY HAVE EXTENDED TO US. WE WERE WARMED BY OUR WELCOME AND ALL THAT YOU DID TO MAKE OUR VISIT THE SUCCESS IT WAS.

ROSALYNN AND I ENJOYED BEING WITH YOU AND RAQUEL AGAIN, AND WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE BEAUTIFUL WATER-COLOR PAINTING AND OTHER GIFTS YOU PRESENTED TO US. WE WILL LONG TREASURE THEM AS EXPRESSIONS OF OUR FRIENDSHIP AND AS A REMEMBRANCE OF THE HISTORIC OCCASION WE SHARED WITH YOU.

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

BRIGADIER GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS HERRERA
CHIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND COMMANDER
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OF THE NATIONAL GUARD
PANAMA

P.S. I REALLY APPRECIATED THE CLOCK/CALCULATOR, WHICH IS ON MY DESK IN THE OVAL OFFICE. END QUOTE.

3. WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE MESSAGE PUBLIC BUT HAS NO OBJECTION SHOULD GENERAL TORRIJOS WISH TO DO O. VANCE

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NNN

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